UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 6/15/70

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. Scatterday
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Bishop
O'MURKIN

SUBJECT: BERNARD FENSTERWALD, JR.
NAME CHECK REQUEST

Special Agent in Charge of the Memphis Office, in connection with the James Earl Ray case, has requested a name check on Fensterwald, who is the head of a private group called "The Committee to Investigate Assassinations." This request is on behalf of Assistant Attorney General Clyde Mason, the state prosecutor assigned to the Ray case, who had asked for information concerning Fensterwald.

Fensterwald, former chief counsel to Senator Long's committee on wiretapping, was the subject of applicant-type investigations by the Bureau in 1949 and 1959, which developed that the names of his mother and sister appeared on a list of delegates and members in 1942 of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, cited by the House Committee on Un-American Activities, and in 1956, while employed by the State Department, Fensterwald and his mother traveled to the Soviet Union for a vacation. No other derogatory data was developed. Fensterwald, in addition to his former State Department employment, was chief counsel of the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary; Subcommitt on Administrative Practice and Procedure (Long Committee), and our contacts with him clearly showed he was unscrupulous, untrustworthy and anti-FBI and sought to involve the Bureau in wiretapping probes by Long's Committee. He allegedly leaked information to Fred Cook, long-time FBI critic, for an article by Cook which appeared in "The Nation," dealing with wiretapping by Government agencies.

NOT RECORDED
JUN 19 1970

A United Press International release in January, 1969, reported on the founding of the new committee to investigate assassinations, stating that Fensterwald was one of the members thereof together with District Attorney James Garrison of New Orleans, and William Turner (ex-Agent and extremely anti-FBI). Fensterwald was quoted as stating the purpose of the committee is "to embarrass or force the Government to make investigations they have been putting off since November 22, 1963," and indicated the committee's position was that there was a conspiracy in Dallas in connection with the assassination of President Kennedy and that there were "strong footprints" of a conspiracy in connection with the shooting of Dr. Martin Luther King.

GES:cs (7)

CONTINUED - OVER

JUN 17 1970
NAME CHECK

5/5 JUN 24 1970

6-16-70

Memo to Mr. DeLoach
Re: Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.

The attached letter to Memphis sets forth brief biographical data concerning Fensterwald and his employments, together with the data developed during the investigations concerning his mother and sister as well as his trip to the Soviet Union in 1956, which it is believed the Special Agent in Charge, Memphis, should orally furnish to Assistant Attorney General Mason.

For his own information and guidance, the letter furnishes Memphis information concerning Fensterwald's anti-FBI attitude and his association with Turner.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached letter, if approved, be forwarded to Special Agent in Charge, Memphis.

OK